

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
FEBRUARY 1996  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 12 DECEMBER 1996**

1. **SITE NAME:** Hobbs Practice Bombing Range No. 7

**SITE NUMBER:** K06NM043700

**LOCATION:**

City: Lovington  
County: Lea  
State: New Mexico

**PROJECT NUMBER:** K06NM043701

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 4

**ASR RAC:** 4

2. **POC's:**

**TECHNICAL MANAGER:**

Name: Richard L. Pike  
Office: CEHNC-OE-DG  
Phone: 256-895-1559

**GEO DISTRICT POC:**

Name: Cheryl Buckel  
Office: CESWA-PP-M  
Phone: 505-342-3208

**GEO DIVISION POC:**

Name: Jim Harrigan  
Office: CESWD-PP-M  
Phone: 214-767-2403

**HEADQUARTERS POC:**

Name: James Huang  
Office: CEMP-RF  
Phone: 202-761-8883

**SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:**

Name: Gerald V. Schwalbe  
Office: CELMS-PM-M  
Phone: 314-331-8788

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Hobbs Practice Bombing Range No. 7 is positioned on 640 acres of land located approximately 36 miles northwest of the City of Hobbs and 15 miles northwest of Lovington, Lea County, NM. The site includes all the land of Section 3, Township 14 South (T 14S), Range 34 East (R 34E). The south half of the land is currently owned by the State of New Mexico and is currently . ready access is by vehicle to the m9ddle of the north boundary and by foot south to the center of the target.

The site is located in the Southern High Plains section of the Great Plains physiographic province. Terrain is relatively flat. Vegetation is sparse with little sign of human habitation. The land appears too dry for agricultural uses. The site is characterized by gently sloping sandy plains. Maximum relief in the area is one hundred feet. The surface slopes gradually to the east with drainage to the east-southeast via surface runoff, and is in the headwaters of the Colorado River. Due to the sandy nature of the soil, most rainfall infiltrates so that significant overland flow does not occur often. Flooding is unlikely.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The site was used by the Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1944 as a practice bombing range for the training of pilots and bombardiers stationed at the former Hobbs Army Air Field (AAF), where an Army Air Forces Flying School was established on 3 July 1942. The site of Hobbs Practice Bombing Range (PBR) No. 7 was selected on 17 June 1942, was cleared for use on 30 July 1942, and was first used by troops from Hobbs AAF on 1 September 1942 for bombardier training. Between 1 September 1942 and 7 November 1942, the 959th, 961st, 962nd, 963rd and 964th Bombardier Training Squadrons dropped sand-filled practice bombs M38A2 on the range. Typical Army improvements to this type of site would have included a target, lighting, generator housing, fencing, and triangulation towers.

In November of 1942 the mission of Hobbs AAF changed from bombardier training to four-engine transition pilot training in the B-17 (heavy bombardment aircraft). The Advanced Flying School personnel learned that bombardier training was to be discontinued. Following this time, the range was used as a visual aid in the bomb target approach and pilot-crew training being conducted as part of the four-engine transition training. On 15 August 1944, the site was declared excess to the needs of the Air Forces and the lease to the site was subsequently canceled.

Specific real estate documents showing lease dates for the site were not found during the INPR or ASR process. A War Department map dated 28 November 1942 identifies the site location and name. Physical evidence at the site verifies that the land was used as a practice bombing range.

## **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **AREA A**

Size, Acres:	640 acres
Former Use:	Practice Bombing Range
Present Use:	South half owned by State of New Mexico, in the State's public grazing program, is currently leased; North half also used for grazing

Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	<b>Confirmed</b>
Type:	Practice bombs; 100 lb.

**6. CURRENT STATUS: CURRENT STATUS:** The draft Archives Search Report for Hobbs Practice Bombing Range No. 7 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in February 1996.

**7. STRATEGY:**

Area A: EE/CA

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

**OE Presence:** Concur with the recommendation for a very low-priority RAC 4 EE/CA due to the potential of spotting charges. The site survey, conducted on 28 November 1995, confirmed there is no evidence of conventional High Explosive OE contamination. The only ordnance-related metal debris encountered was from the M38-series 100 pound practice bombs. The archival research revealed sand filled practice bombs, M38A2, were dropped on the range. The small number of dilapidated bomb pieces located at the target are believed to present only a minimal hazard to the public. It is recommended that further action be conducted in conjunction with EE/CA(s) addressing all former Hobbs AAF PBR's that existed and were used for training in Lea County, New Mexico.

**Location of Practice Bomb Debris:** The Site Survey inspection Team found the practice bomb debris in the area of the target where target rings consisting of rocks were observed. The focus of further actions would be from the center of the target outward.

**CWM:** Based on the investigation of historical records reviewed, the results of the site survey and interviews, Chemical Warfare Materials were never stored, used, or disposed of at Hobbs PBR No. 7.

**Natural Resources:** There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. A listing is provided on page 3-4, para 3.5 in the ASR Findings. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

**Oil and Gas Drilling:** The district should notify any company of the need for UXO avoidance because of the potential for spotting charges when oil and gas drilling is to be done.

**Entry Permits:** The Site Survey Team obtained a permit from the appropriate office of the State of New Mexico and permission from the private landowner to gain access to the site during their visit. Permission would probable be required for any further actions at the site. The POC for the state office supplying permits is in Appendix H, page H-11 of the ASR Findings.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only